REMARKS

Claims 50-81 are pending in the present application. Claims 50, 56, 60, 61, 68, 72, 75 and 76 are independent claims.

35 USC §112, First Paragraph, Rejection

Claims 50-81 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the original disclosure. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 50, 56, 68 and 72 recite, *inter alia*:

> the external device when attached to the detachable storage unit, but detached from the reproducing device, cannot reproduce data from the detachable storage unit

and independent claims 60, 61, 75 and 76 recite, *inter alia*:

> the recording device when attached to the detachable storage unit, but detached from the reproducing device, cannot reproduce data from the detachable storage unit.

The Examiner has rejected these independent claims and their dependent claims (due to the dependency) because the Examiner alleges that the above-identified features of the claims are not supported by Applicant's original disclosure. To support his position, the Examiner refers to column 4 (page 10) of the original specification and states, "it is clear that in Fig. 1, unit 1, can reproduce the data stored in the detachable memory unit to memory 13, of unit 1,

with no regard to whether unit 2 or the reproduction unit 2 is also connected, as shown on Fig. 1" (page 4, lines 7-10 of the Final Office Action dated 12/30/02).

However, page 10 (column 4), lines 1-5 of the original specification discloses that, "the information for responding to each mode output from the microcomputer 22 allows the data selector 15 to choose compression or retrieval functions". That is, the data selector 15 operates in different modes depending on the mode information received from the microcomputer 22 of the reproducing unit 2. For instance, the data selector 15 may operate in a record mode, a reproduction mode or a search mode.

If the data selector 15 is in a mode to retrieve data from the separable storage unit 21, then while the data selector 15 remains in that mode, the data selector 15 outputs a data select signal to the system control 14 which in turn outputs a control signal to control the interface unit 16 to read out data from the separable storage unit 21 according to the control signals. This is clearly described on , e.g., page 10 (column 4), lines 20-25 and lines 1-5 and page 8 (column 2), lines 45-49 of the original specification. The reproduction of data from the separable storage unit 21 by the data recording unit 1 discussed on page 10 (column 4) of the original specification requires that the data selector 15 is set in an appropriate mode to carry out the reproduction and is maintained in that mode during the entire reproduction process. In order for the data recording unit 1 to reproduce data from the separable storage unit 21, then the data recording unit 1

is required to be connected to the data reproducing unit 2 so as to check for and receive the mode information from the microcomputer 22.

Moreover, Figure 1 of the original application clearly shows this connection between the data recording unit 1 and the data reproducing unit 2 by depicting a line connected from the microcomputer 22 to the data selector 15. For the Examiner's convenience, this line has been highlighted on Fig. 1 in Appendix A attached hereto.

Therefore, the newly added features of the independent claims are not new matter and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

As discussed in the Amendment filed on October 21, 2002, among other features recited in the claims, the newly added features of the independent claims are neither taught nor suggested by the primary reference, *Kaloi et al.* For example, as shown in Fig. 1 of *Kaloi et al.*, SSRPD1 (recording device) when attached to the portable storage device PSD (detachable storage unit), but detached from SSRPD2 or CID (reproducing device as equated by the Examiner), **can** reproduce data from the portable storage device PSD, because the SSRPD1 is attached to the portable storage device PSD establishing a data path between the SSRPD1 and the PSD, and has recording and reproducing capability to directly access data from the PSD.

On page 9, bottom 5 lines of the Office Action dated July 31, 2002, the Examiner states, by referring to *Kaloi et al.,* that "the recording unit (Fig. 1, SSRPD1), when detached at (disconnected at, "2 A a"), from the reproducing unit

2, cannot reproduce data from the separable storage unit (PSD 2A), due to no path to read stored data from to reproduce from the PSD". This statement is clearly incorrect because the SSRPD1 can reproduce data from the PSD 2A as long as the SSRPD1 is attached to the PSD 2A, even if the SSRPD1 is detached from the SSRPD2. Due to the independent reproduction capability of SSRPD1, once the connection between the PSD 2A and the SSRPD1 is established, the SSRPD1 can reproduce data from the PSD 2A without requiring a connection or attachment between the PSD 2A and the SSRPD2.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 50-81 are fully supported by the original disclosure and thus in full compliance with 35 USC §112, first paragraph. Further, the prior art of record (e.g., Kaloi et al.) does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the independent claims as discussed above. Based on these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view that claims 50-81 are in full compliance with 35 USC §112, first paragraph, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give careful and full consideration to the features recited in the claims including Applicant's previous arguments.

Interview Requested

To better communicate Applicant's position, an interview with the Examiner is requested. This is an official request for the interview and should not be ignored, unless the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant points out that the only interview conducted in this case was held on October 18, 2001. Since then, an RCE (Continuation Application) has been filed. In response to the Examiner's first Office Action in the RCE, an interview with the Examiner was requested both orally and in written response. But the Examiner, for some reason unknown to Applicant, did not grant the interview. In view that there has been no interview granted in the RCE and the previous request for the interview was denied by the Examiner for no apparent reason, the grant of the interview is deemed proper.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the rejections of record, and earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final Rejection, in that it raises no new issues In the alternative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final Rejection in that it reduces the issues for appeal.

Should there be any matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASH & BIRCH, LLP

By _____
Joseph A. Kolasch
Registration No. 22,463
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22032-0747
(703) 205-8000

JAK/EHC/mlr/abs

Enclosure: Appendix A

OIPE
FEB 20 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appendix A

FIG.1

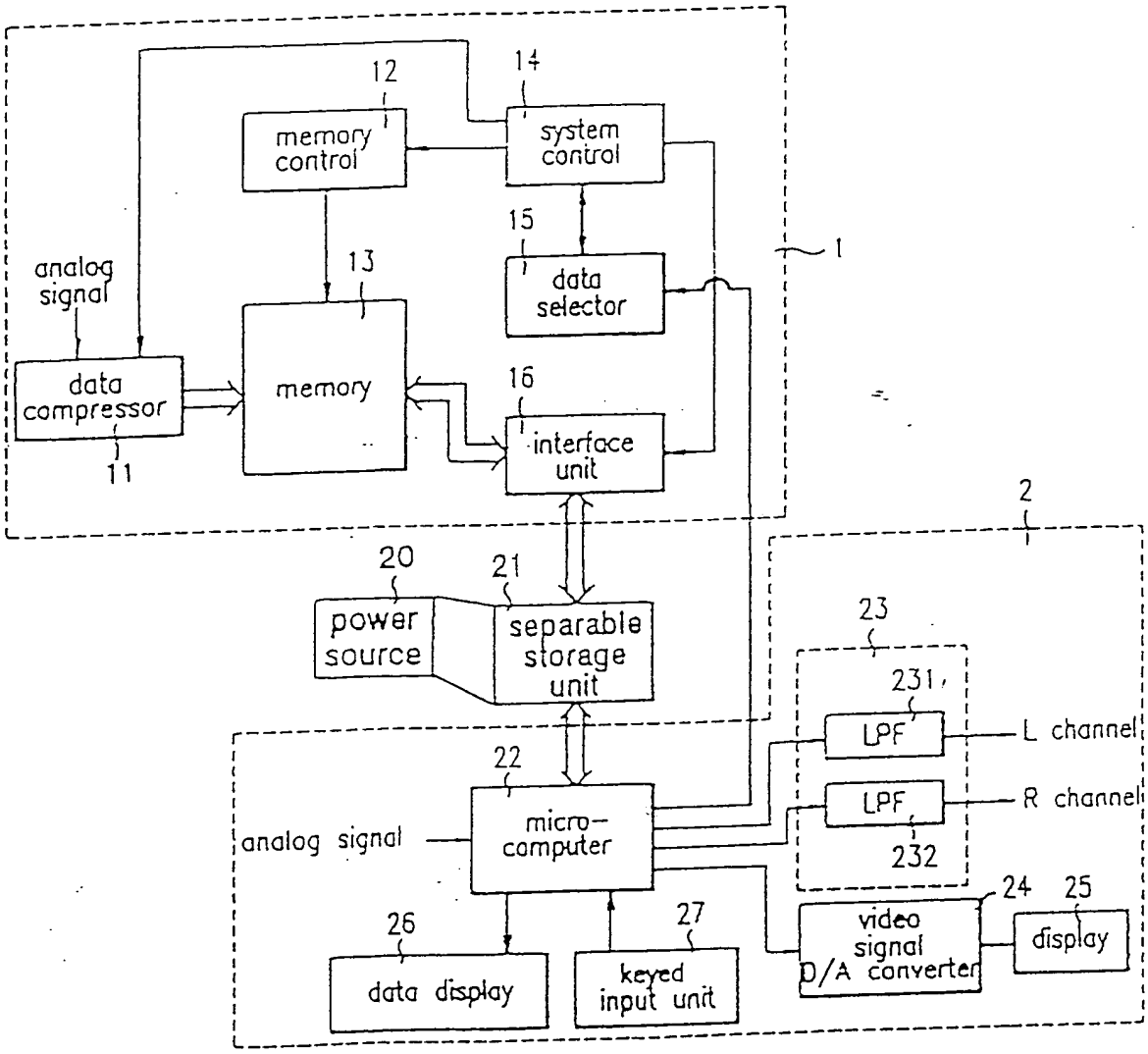


FIG.2

